

FPIR 0304/67

Reference Date: 13 January 1967

Bochkarev on Armed Forces Development

1. During the postwar period, vast changes have occurred in the defense system of the USSR, and the firepower and striking capacity of the Soviet Army and Navy have increased sharply. The technical equipping and organization of the Armed Forces and the training and education of the troops have been implemented in complete accordance with the thorough changes in the development of military affairs, as well as with the nature of modern warfare. The successes in the development of industry and the outstanding achievements of science and technology have permitted the proper equipping of the Army and Navy with nuclear-rocket weapons and other new combat equipment. As is known, we have created a special branch of the Armed Forces -- the Strategic Rocket Troops, which are equipped with powerful intercontinental rockets capable of delivering a nuclear charge to practically any point on earth. The conventional weapons and the traditional branches of troops have also undergone great changes. The improvement in the material-technical basis and organization of military affairs, as well as the system of training servicemen, is continuing steadily and at very high rates. This concerns all branches of troops. More and more new types of strategic and operational-tactical rockets are being introduced which surpass the previous ones in capacity, range, and accuracy. Air defense -- the means of combatting the rockets and aircraft of the enemy -- is being improved. It is sufficient to say that at the present time an enemy aircraft can be hit by one or two rockets, while during World War II more than 1,000 antiaircraft shells were needed for this.

The equipping of our Armed Forces, which have the newest types of combat aircraft for various purposes, has taken a long step forward. Our rocket-carrying aircraft are capable of inflicting blows upon the aggressor from long distances, without entering the zone of his air defense.

In the Navy, an ever greater role is being played by the atomic submarine fleet with powerful nuclear-rocket armaments....

The combat potential of the ground troops has increased greatly and continues to expand steadily. Their striking power, mobility and maneuverability, and capability of operating in great depth are increasing....

"The Defenders of Peace and Creation,"  
by Maj. Gen K. BOCHKAREV  
Moscow, Agitator, No 2, January 1967  
(Signed for the press, 13 January 1967)